

THE METROPOLITAN IMPROVEMENTS.—

The greater portion of the houses between Charlotte-street, Bloomsbury, and Oxford-street—to be removed for the formation of the new street—have been taken down to the foundation. Among the number is the Hare and Hounds public-house, situate near the station-house of the E division, which was formerly a celebrated resort of the Londoners in the 16th and 17th centuries. Till the reign of Charles II. it was known by the sign of the Beggar's Bush, when the name became altered in consequence of a bar being been heated and sought there, where it was afterwards cooked and eaten. This locality has undergone many changes. There was during the reign of Henry I. an hospital for lepers, which was founded by Matilda, the wife of that king; and subsequently the scaffold was removed to that spot from Smithfield, upon which the first victim was Lord Cabbam, the friend of Henry V., who was hung in chains, and horot by a slow fire, and which scaffold was afterwards taken to Tyburn. In a few days the site of the above public-house will be lost, as it will be nearly in the centre of the new street. Between Bedford Chapel and High-street, St. Giles's, which was a short time ago the parish stone-yard—poles are erected to form the line of new houses, the cellars of which are now being formed. In Belton-street, leading from High-street to Long Acre, the new church of Christ Church, the foundation-stone of which was laid a few weeks ago on the east side of the street, is in a state of great forwardness, and but few houses remain between there and Long Acre to be demolished. In Cranborne-street, an entirely new pavement has been laid down, giving the public thoroughfare all the appearance of a street; and in a short time houses will be erected on the opposite side, for which the various cellars are formed.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—On Saturday afternoon much interest and curiosity were excited in Chesapeake on observing a vehicle proceeding slowly along, with a partially covered colossal figure in it, from the studio of Westminster, the sculptor. Many persons, believing it to be the celebrated statue of the Duke of Wellington intended to be raised in front of the new Exchange, followed it to the spot, when it proved to be none of the figures for ornamenting the pediment of that edifice, many of which were already within the inclosure, and some of them elevated to their places. They are all colossal, of Carrara marble, and emblematic of British industry and enterprise.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.—The following are the office bearers for the ensuing year:—President, Mr. Henry, Vice-presidents, Messrs. H. E. Kendall, J. B. Pogworth, and George Smith; Members of Council, Messrs. W. Bonth, Foxhall, George Godwin, W. Grellier, B. Beasley, James Noble, C. Parker, W. F. Pocock, H. Roberts, and James Thompson; Hon. Secretaries, Messrs. A. Poynter, and G. Bailey; Foreign Secretary, T. L. Donaldson.

GOVERNMENT.—The statue of George IV. in Frankfurt with a fate similar to that of Byron in London, which has lain in the Custom-House for several years. The magistrates of Frankfurt did not appoint any place for the statue to rest over the gate; it will be placed in a lonely alley, without the gates of the city of his birth.

WOOLWICH.—Under the superintendence of Capt. Deason, civil engineer, of her Majesty's dock-yard, Woolwich, a considerable enlargement of that establishment is about to take place. For some time past much convenience has been felt in consequence of want of room by the boiler-makers belonging to the yard.

COALING REPORTS.—The number of pumping-engines required for the month of April is 37—the quantity of coals consumed being 3,380 tons, lifting, in the aggregate, 31,000,000 tons of water 10 fathoms high. The average duty of the whole is, therefore, 87,000,000 lbs. lifted 1 foot high by the consumption of a bushel of coal. *Mining Journal.*

The beautiful New-road, from the High-street, Cheltenham, to the back of the College, formed at the expense and cost of the direction of the late Sir Matthew Wood, was thrown open to the public on Thursday week.

ADDITIONAL ONFLOW ON PEWS.—

The venerable archdeacon next alluded to the subject of selling, letting, and disposing of pews in parish churches. He had understood that this practice still obtained within his archdeaconry. In addition to buying and selling, he was informed that in some instances persons had claimed certain pews as their own property, who had not even a residence in the parish, or were absolutely separated. He thought this irregularity arose from ignorance of the law rather than from an intentional infraction thereof. He was aware that in these days the existence of pews was condemned, and the restoration of open seats recommended; but he did not entirely enclose in the sentiment. Pews were awful, as private accommodation for families, who necessarily felt a greater comfort in sitting together and being united in the house of God. Pews were also conducive to a more undivided attention to the services. Nevertheless, he did not approve of them when not in keeping with the style of the building, or when they were unaliquely, or obstructed the view of the pulpit. But to return to the question of right. It might be laid down as a general rule that all pews were the property of the parish; but the disposal of them was left to the ordinary, that is, the bishop, and to the churchwardens under him. They were to be allotted to the inhabitants according to rank and station, and in proportion to the extent of their families. It was also recommended that the churchwardens should be guided by the advice of the minister. The bishop's authority in the disposal of pews could only be superseded by faculty or prescription. Prescription could only be maintained by immemorial usage, and constant repairs by the claimant; for if proof of repair by the parish was adduced, the prescription would end. A faculty appropriated a pew to the respect of a house, the occupier of which, as long as he remained in the house, and was a member of the church, was entitled to the pew; but on the house being re-let, the former tenant must have no further right. Claims were sometimes made on the plea of long possession, without disturbance; but this could not be maintained. Even the erection of a seat would not convey a permanent right; nor would the giving of a seat to any person and his heirs be legal. Now, if such was the law, it followed that the letting and selling of pews must be a violation thereof. Such things could only be done by Act of Parliament. Thus, in new churches, where large spaces were usually set apart for the poor, the pews were permitted to be let, in order to provide an income for the clergyman. Churchwardens had also been empowered to let the pews and apply the rents for repairs in certain instances. In proprietary chapels, which, as partaking of the nature of private property, did not come within the range of ecclesiastical laws, pews were legally let and sold.—*Address at Perth, 21st May.*

THE PLIMOUTH BREAKWATER LIGHTHOUSE is completed. The light is at an elevation of 63 feet above the level of high-water spring tides, and appears red in all directions seaward, and white within the line of the breakwater. A bell is attached to the lighthouse, which is to be rung at intervals in foggy weather.

The Earl of Aberdeen has purchased Sir William Allan's picture of "Sir Walter Scott dictating to his daughter in the study at Abbotsford," now in the exhibition of the Royal Academy.

Tenders.

Towage delivered for alterations, &c., to the Salubry Vignage.—Alfred Anger, Esq., Architect. May 21.	
Woodcock and Son	£236
Locke and Newham	895
Barton and Son	845
Piper and Sons	796

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS.

The *last* paneling is received and ordered to be engraved. We should like to be favoured with a list of the names of the donors of the crockets, spandrels, and other carving.

Current Prices of Materials.

June 11, 1844.

STEELES.—Foreign ton ..	£ s. d.	4 0 0	23 0 0
For delivery ..	£ 10 0 0	15 15 0	
ZINC.—English sheet	0 0 0	30 0 0	
QUINCEY'S	per lb.	0 4 6	
LEAD.—English bar, 4c. per ton 6 B—	4 10 0		
Nail rods	0 0 0	7 0 0	
Hoops	0 0 0	8 0 0	
Sheets	0 0 0	8 0 0	
Cargo in Wales	0 0 0	5 15 0	
Fig. No. 1, Wales 3 15 0—	4 0 0		
No. 1, Clyde 0 8 0—	3 5 0		
For. Swedish	9 5 0	9 10 0	
Russian, CEND	15 10 0		
Swedish—Swedish keg, p. ton 0 0 0—	17 10 0		
Fagott	0 0 0	17 10 0	
CORRUG.—English sheeting, per lb ..	0 0 1		
Old	ditto	0 0 1	
Cake p. ton	65 0 0	85 0 0	
Tin	80 0 0	81 0 0	
American	12 0 0	74 0 0	
TYN.—English, black, 4c. out	5 15 0		
Bers	0 0 0	15 15 0	
Foreign Banca	0 0 0	3 7 0	
Strait	0 0 0	3 4 0	
Peruvian	0 0 0	3 0 0	
Tin plates, No. 1c. p. box 1 6 0—	5 15 0		
No. 1c.	1 14 0	1 19 0	
Waters Jr. p. box less			
LEAD.—Sheet melted	per ton	17 15 0	
Shot, patent	0 0 0	19 15 0	
Red	25 10 0		
White	31 0 0		
FIG.—LEAD.—English	16 15 0	17 0 0	
Spanish	0 0 0	16 10 0	
American	0 0 0	15 10 0	

SHORT AND MAHONY, Builders,

1, Newmarket-court, Cornhill.

NOTICES OF CONTRACTS.

For Masonry and all other work (except Iron-work) to be done in building a Bridge across the river Aron, at Bath.—Mr. Mansers, City Architect Bath. June 25.

For the erection of National Schools, with a residence for the master and mistress, at St. Ives, Hunts.—J. D. Hopkins, Esq., Architect. 23, Bedford-square, London. June 20.

For building a Lock-up House, at St. Ives, Hunts.—J. D. Hopkins, Esq., Architect. 23, Bedford-square, London. June 20.

For certain alterations and additions in the Parish Church of Milkhams, in the county of Wilts.—Messrs. Wytte and Brandon, Architects. 75, Great Russell-street, Bloomsbury. June 21.

For the additions and alterations to the County Gaol, at Nottingham and the Nisi Prius Court, in the Shire Hall (Separate Traders).—Messrs. Hawley and Jalland, Architects, Nottingham June 28.

For building Sewers in Old Fish-street, Triskyle lane, and several other streets and places adjacent thereto.—Jos. Daw, Esq., Guildhall. June 25.

For the alterations, improvements, and repairs to the School House at Hatton Garden.—Mr. Cooper, Architect. 1, Varian-buildings, Gray's Inn. June 29.

For the necessary Iron-work of a Bridge of new arch, 110 feet span, to be built over the river Aron, at Bath.—Drawings, &c., Mr. Mansers, Architect. 1, Oxford-row, Bath. June 25.

For the rebuilding of certain works for the improvement of Aberdeen Harbour.—Plans, &c., Mr. Abernethy, 69, Waterloo-quay, Aberdeen. June 20.

COMPETITIONS.

Plans, &c. are wanted for erecting a Church at Southwell, Notts.—Further particulars, Mr. W. W. Shaw, Southwell, Notts. The successful competitor will be employed on the usual terms.

A PRIZE of 100 guineas will be given by the commissioners appointed to erect a lunatic asylum in the vicinity of the city of Kingston, Jamaica, to the person who shall produce the best plan, accompanied by a specification of an asylum for the reception of the insane. The institution must accommodate 200 patients of both sexes, with the requi-